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## The Visible CIA

Manuel Ray, who enjoys a reputation as the most impressive of the Cuban exile leaders, set out for Cuba to battle Fidel Castro to the death. He and seven fellow warriors, one a woman, ended up paying fines of \$14 each in a Bahamas magistrate's court. After this furious engagement they were hustled back to Miami where, according to the New York *Herald Tribune*, they were greeted by the splintered Cuban exile groups with "gloomy suspicion and chording glee." As a rule, one Cuban exile hates another Cuban exile only slightly less than he hates Fidel Castro.

Since Ray fought Batista bravely as one of Castro's lieutenants and is the furthest to the Left of the exile leaders, this fiasco is of some interest. *Time* (June 12) says flatly that the eight were launched from a CIA-sponsored mother ship "that obligingly runs exiles to within striking distance of Cuba." A convenient spot for dropping them is the Anguilla Cays, only 40 miles off the Cuban coast. To be sure, Castro's minions are as aware of this location as the Cuban exiles, the British and the CIA. As a rendezvous, it is about as suitable as the lobby of the Pentagon would be for a recreant U.S. Army officer and the Russian ambassador. It may be unjust, but the suspicion arises that Ray, who is not the CIA's favorite Cuban exile leader, was double-crossed. He was captured by a British destroyer, assisted by two U.S. aircraft.

When *Time* asserts that the CIA engineered the Ray expedition it should know, for the American photographer who was a member of the Ray task force was on assignment for *Life* magazine. But there is further evidence that the CIA has learned nothing from the Bay of Pigs fiasco. The London *Times* of

May 27 reported on a Washington press conference of another exile group, led by Capt. Erneido A. Oliva, who was second in command of Brigade 2506 at the Bay of Pigs and who, the day before the press conference, had resigned from the U.S. Army and been placed in the inactive reserve.

The press conference, says the *Times* Washington correspondent, was attended by "several non-journalistic Americans, who wore what is known in Washington as the CIA uniform, tightly fitting suits and buttoned down collars. One of these remarked modestly that he was 'helping out the committee. . . .'" The *Time* account of the proceedings at Nassau jibes with the London *Times* account of the Washington press conference. ". . . a CIA type," says *Time*, "showed up, gave a different name to each newsman present and prepared to pay whatever fine was levied against the culprits, explaining that he was a 'friend.'"

Both England and the United States are fortunate to have a free press. Ours is not always as active as it might be, but as long as it functions at all, at least a part of the CIA remains visible. Like an iceberg, most of it is submerged, but it is impossible for it to hide completely. Impossible, that is, with its present mode of operation. If it would cut out the cloak-and-dagger stuff and confine itself to its proper intelligence-gathering functions, it could enjoy the secrecy it craves. But only Congress can bring about such a miracle.